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Agenda item 133

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Diana Minyi **Lee** (Singapore)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2016, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-first session the item entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 16th and 23rd meetings, on 2 and 23 December 2016. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.[1]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/71/428);

(b) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/71/634).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.5/71/L.17

4. At its 23rd meeting, on 23 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2018-

[1] A/C.5/71/SR.16 and A/C.5/71/SR.23.

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2019" (A/C.5/71/L.17), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Chile.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/71/L.17 without a vote (see para. 8).

B. Draft decision A/C.5/71/L.21

6. At its 23rd meeting, on 23 December 2016, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Questions deferred for future consideration" (A/C.5/71/L.21), submitted by the Chair of the Committee.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/71/L.21 without a vote (see para. 9).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2018-2019

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit, in off-budget years, an outline of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium,

Reaffirming also section VI of its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990,

Reaffirming further rule 153 of its rules of procedure,

Recalling its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2018-2019[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

3. *Reaffirms* that the budget outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium and promote greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process, thereby facilitating the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget;

4. *Also reaffirms* that the proposed programme budget outline shall contain an indication of the following:

(a) A preliminary estimate of resources needed to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(b) Priorities, reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources;

5. *Further reaffirms* that the budget proposals of the Secretary-General should reflect resource levels commensurate with mandates for their full, efficient and effective implementation;

6. *Stresses* that the budget outline is a preliminary estimate of resources;

[1] A/71/428.
[2] A/71/634.

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 on the basis of a preliminary estimate of 5,395.0 million United States dollars at revised 2016-2017 rates, inclusive of a provision of 1,124.4 million dollars for special political missions;

8. *Decides* that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 shall contain provisions for recosting on the basis of the existing methodology;

9. *Also decides* that the priorities for the biennium 2018-2019 shall be the following:

(a) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(b) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the priorities outlined in paragraph 9 above when presenting the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019;

11. *Decides* that the contingency fund shall be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate, namely, at 40.46 million dollars, that this amount shall be in addition to the overall level of the preliminary estimate and that it shall be used in accordance with the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

9. The Fifth Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Questions deferred for future consideration

A

The General Assembly decides to defer until the first part of its resumed seventy-first session consideration of the following documents:

Item 134
Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

Resident coordinator system

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed United Nations Secretariat contribution to the United Nations Development Group cost-sharing arrangement for the resident coordinator system[1]

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[2]

Review of the experience of the utilization of the contingency fund

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the experience of the utilization of the contingency fund[3]

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[4]

B

The General Assembly decides to defer until the second part of its resumed seventy-first session consideration of the following documents:

Item 149
Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Combating sexual exploitation and abuse

Report of the Secretary-General on combating sexual exploitation and abuse[5]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of an independent review on sexual exploitation and abuse by international peacekeeping forces in the Central African Republic[6]

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[1] A/70/703.
[2] A/70/7/Add.48.
[3] A/70/395.
[4] A/70/7/Add.7.
[5] A/71/97.
[6] A/71/99.

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[7]

C

The General Assembly decides to defer until the main part of its seventy-second session consideration of the following documents:

Item 134
Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

Capital master plan

Fourteenth annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the capital master plan[8]

Report of the Board of Auditors on the capital master plan[9]

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2015[10]

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[11]

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of arrangements for funding and backstopping special political missions[12]

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[13]

Operational arrangements and conditions of service of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Note by the Secretary-General on the operational arrangements and conditions of service of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[14]

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[7] A/71/643.
[8] A/71/309.
[9] A/71/5 (Vol. V).
[10] A/71/331.
[11] A/71/541.
[12] A/66/340.
[13] A/66/7/Add.21.
[14] A/70/544.

Regional restructuring of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed regional restructuring of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: increasing efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/141 [15]

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions [16]

Item 143
Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the statistical report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the budgetary and financial situation of the organizations of the United Nations system [17]

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[15] A/71/218 and Corr.1.
[16] A/71/584.
[17] A/71/583.